

REPORT

OF THE

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

OF THE

TOWN OF OAKHAM,

For 1870-71.

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TYLER & SEAGRAVE, BOOK AND JOB PRINTERS, 252 MAIN ST.
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REPORT.



Another School year has past and it becomes our duty to present you with a general statement of the condition of our schools, and make suggestions for the future.

The Assessors reported the number of children in town between the ages of five and fifteen, on the first of May, 1870, to be one hundred and fifty-four.

The amount received from the State fund was \$140.53; from the Dog tax \$88.31.

The Town appropriated \$1,300.00, making the sum total of \$1,528.84 for the support of schools during the past year.

The number of different teachers employed among us was thirteen. Expense of teachers for Summer terms \$501.50; Winter term \$738.50; paid for wood \$93.25; building fires \$9.00; stoves and pipe \$22.53; for repairs \$111.96.

There are many subjects connected with our schools of special interest to all. Whether we conduct them under the town or district system; there are such vital interests connected with them, that we cannot afford to lessen our efforts for their welfare. Parents generally know their worth, and will not intentionally deprive those they love, of the best privileges found in our schools. We often look at matters connected with schools from different stand points and so misunderstand each other; the action of Committees are often looked upon with a jealous eye, when if all the circumstances were known all would be satisfied. We are selfish many times, and often forget the public good while seeking our own interests. We do not always agree about the best means to be used to accomplish certain ends. Committees sometimes find it difficult to decide the question.

We are painfully aware of our inability to do justice to the position, but we have endeavored to perform the duties devolving upon us faithfully, and we ask the sympathy and co-operation of parents and friends, that our schools may improve from year to year. We believe all would be better satisfied with three terms of school each year instead of two, eight weeks in the Spring, eight weeks in the early Fall, and ten weeks in the Winter. We have been somewhat troubled, by those whose duty it was to provide teachers, neglecting this till late, and then after school ought to have commenced, we have had teachers to find at a time when they were scarce. Will it not be well to attend to this duty in season hereafter?

Last year we commended the scholars for their prompt attendance at the public examinations; but the record is different this year, in several instances, scholars have left school, one, two or three weeks before the close, for no reason known to the committee or teacher.—Is this as it should be? If any think thus to injure a teacher they are mistaken, your children must suffer, and not the teacher.—None need be ashamed of their ignorance, if they have done their best to remedy it; in the absence of any other reason we conclude that such scholars are conscious that they have not made that progress their privileges demand, and are ashamed to meet their friends.

Writing is a very important school exercise and should not be overlooked; there should be a regular time, when scholars may write, and the books should remain in the teacher's desk to be taken out only at the writing hour. A teacher who has conducted the writing with ability and in order, may well be proud to present a goodly number of neat and carefully written books for inspection.

The schools have generally been successful and profitable. The whole number of scholars who have attended school in town the past year was one hundred and eighty. Average attendance one hundred and seventy. Expense to each scholar, Winter term was about \$4.10, in Summer \$3.33. Your committee have not made any change in text books. We have no United States History of recent date; it seems desirable that we have one immediately, for we can not neglect this branch of study.

EAST HILL SCHOOL.

SUMMER TERM.—Whole number of scholars 11; average attendance 10. Wages of teacher per month \$16.00. Taught by Miss Lizzie J. Bullard, her first experience in teaching. The school appeared

well when visited by the committee, and at the close gave evidence of progress. The number of scholars was small, but can we in justice to these small children in attendance here unite them to other schools.

Neither absent nor tardy.—Inez A. Lovell, Hattie L. Henry, Eliza J. Parmenter, Mary B. Parmenter, Fred H. Parmenter.

WINTER TERM.—Whole number of scholars 9 ; average attendance 8. Wages of teacher per month \$24.00 ; whole expense for the year \$125.50. This school was under the care of Miss Hattie Shedd, who labored earnestly and faithfully for those committed to her charge.—The school made good improvement. We judge one or two scholars in attendance here are rather restive under restraint. We expect prompt and ready obedience on the part of every scholar.

Neither absent nor tardy.—Hattie S. Henry, Eliza J. Parmenter, Charles F. Dean, Edson H. Hapgood, Albert F. Hapgood.

SOUTH SCHOOL.

SUMMER TERM.—Whole number of scholars 22 ; average attendance 19. Wages of teacher per month \$31.00. Miss Helen E. Deane, teacher. We are if possible more fully satisfied than ever that Miss Deane, is one of the few truly called to teach in the Common school, We commend especially the good order of the school, and the progress of most of the scholars in the art of reading.

Neither Absent nor Tardy.—Emma T. Adams, Mattie L. Boyd, Abbie L. Collier, Jessie Morgan, Lucy E. Morgan, George A. Brown.

WINTER TERM.—Whole number of scholars 30 : average attendance 26. Wages of teacher per month \$34.00 ; whole expense for the year \$217.33. This school was under the care of Miss Carrie R. Harrington, of this town, a teacher who seems to possess in a high degree the power to govern well and discipline wisely, at the same time gaining the love and good will of the scholars. As far as we know the school was satisfactory to all concerned.

Neither absent nor tardy.—Emma T. Adams, Abbie L. Collier, Amanda A. Dean, Francis Hallowell, Jessie Morgan, Charles J. Barr, Allston Collier, Ernest W. Collier, Elmer A. Collier, Willie O. Condon.

WEST CENTER SCHOOL.

SUMMER TERM.—Whole number of scholars 26 ; average attendance 23. Wages of teacher per month \$28.00.

Neither absent nor tardy.—Ida Boyden, Josie Lincoln, Ella Olmstead,

Maria Butler, Ida Holden, Jessie Fairbank, Bessie Haskell, Freddie Spear, George Butler.

WINTER TERM.—Whole number of scholars 38 : average attendance 30. Wages of teacher per month \$34.00.

Neither absent nor tardy.—Oscar Bates, Samuel Dean, Amory Holden, Fred Spear, Eddie Holden, Charlie Thompson, George Bates.

Whole expense for the year, \$205.83. Taught both Summer and Winter by Miss Sarah Stowe of Hubbardston.

This school has been very fortunate in securing for so many successive terms, the services of so experienced and successful a teacher as Miss Stowe. Under her instruction very commendable progress was made by all the pupils under her charge.

WEST SCHOOL.

SUMMER TERM.—Whole number of scholars 16 ; average attendance 10. Wages of teacher per month \$16.66 $\frac{2}{3}$. Miss Charlotte Russell, instructress. Although the school was small we believe the teacher occupied her time profitably. She labored earnestly and faithfully for the welfare of the school. Recitations at the closing examination were prompt and thorough, and all present appeared satisfied.

WINTER TERM.—Whole number of scholars 23 ; average attendance 21. Wages of teacher per month \$32.00 ; whole expense \$161.75. This school was under the care of Miss Ione Boyden. We visited the school several times, and are happy to say that we ever found it in perfect order. The promptness and energy of the teacher, and the facility with which she illustrated the different studies, were evidence of her fitness for the place she occupied. Self dependence, in a high degree, was cultivated. We believe the teacher deserved and had the esteem and confidence of her scholars and their parents.

Neither absent nor tardy.—NONE ! Parents please take notice !

NORTH SCHOOL.

SUMMER TERM.—Whole number of scholars 17 ; average attendance 14. Wages of teacher per month \$24.00. Teacher, Miss Almira L. Fuller. This school was successfully managed and enjoyed a profitable term.

Neither absent nor tardy.—Emma I. Barr, J. Eugene Holden, Freddie A. Keep.

WINTER TERM.—Whole number of scholars 22 ; average attendance 19. Wages of teacher per month \$36.00 ; whole expense for the

year \$192.00. Taught by Mr. Jesse Allen. Good progress was made in the studies, and a pleasant and profitable school was the result. We would especially commend the writing; in no school of an equal number has there been so good a display of well written copy books.

Neither absent nor tardy.—George Adams, J. Eugene Holden, Chas. Matthews, Fred Matthews, Jennie Keyes, Lillie Matthews.

COLDBROOK SCHOOL.

SUMMER TERM.—Whole number of scholars 18; average attendance 15. Wages of teacher per month \$29.00. Taught by Miss Aroline A. Winn of Holden. Her first attempt at teaching, rather too moderate in the exercises of the schoolroom to accomplish great things. We judge that perfect recitations here were seldom heard.

Neither absent nor tardy.—Orrie Billings, Livie Billings.

WINTER TERM.—Whole number of scholars 20; average attendance 15. Whole expense for the year \$212.00. Mr. David H. Heywood commenced this school, but his efforts proving unsuccessful, at the end of five weeks, it was thought best to change teachers. Fortunately the services of Miss Arabella Warner of New Braintree, were secured; under her management good order was maintained; lessons well learned, and good progress made for six weeks, when Miss Warner not being able to finish the school on account of previous engagements, Miss Carrie R. Harrington, who has so long been favorably known among us as a successful teacher consented to finish the school. At the time of writing this report the school is still in session.

EAST CENTRE SCHOOL.

SUMMER TERM.—Whole number of scholars 39; average attendance 36. Wages of teacher per month \$30.00. Teacher, Mary A. Lovell. Miss Lovell possesses many of the qualifications necessary to success in the art of teaching. This school was creditable both to teacher and scholars.

Neither absent nor tardy.—Alice W. Ayres, Addie M. Dean, Mattie I. Dean, Allie M. Fuller, Allie M. Gleason, Mary E. Gleason, Lizzie M. Gleason, Ida H. Lovell, Carrie E. Lincoln, Jennie E. Lincoln, Alice E. Morse, Lizzie A. Morse, Hattie A. Morse, Jennie M. Mendell, Emma F. Robinson, Florence J. Sargent, Frank O. Ayers,

Willie C. Fuller, George T. Lovell, Alfred C. Morse, Timmie McCarty.

WINTER TERM.—Whole number of scholars 48; average attendance 41. Wages of teacher per month \$40.00; whole expense for the year \$228.50. This school was taught by Mr. L. P. Lovell, with his usual faithfulness and success.

Neither absent nor tardy.—Frank Ayres, Winnie Ayres, Timmie McCarty, Alice Ayres, Carrie Lincoln, Jennie Lincoln, Lizzie Morse Jennie M. Mendell, Emma Robinson, Ada V. Walker.

Respectfully submitted.

L. P. LOVELL,
H. W. LINCOLN,
JESSE ALLEN,
H. A. CRAWFORD.



